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6 April 1950

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO : Mr. Childe  
FROM: [redacted]

SUBJECT: Central Air Documents Office (CADO)

1. In accordance with your request an informal investigation has been made of the operation of the Central Air Document Office (CADO). CIA personnel participating and Department of Defense personnel, from whom the information was received are:

[redacted]

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Colonel C. F. Macomber, Directorate of Research and Development, USAF

[redacted]

2. Colonel Macomber at a meeting with CIA representatives on 28 March 1950 outlined briefly the history of CADO and the tentative recommendations for its future operations.

3. The Central Air Documents Office has been operating since 1948 in accordance with A.F. Regulation No. 20-10 (copy enclosed). It has been jointly staffed with military personnel by the Navy and Air Force and is located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. The Research and Development Board has been charged with major policy guidance for the operation of CADO.

4. Recently the Army became a participating member of CADO and a committee was appointed composed of representatives from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, to investigate CADO and to make pertinent recommendations for its future operations.

5. As presently envisaged, these recommendations provide that the office shall be called the Central Armed Forces Document Center and shall be composed of two main functional groups. The first group will be located at Wright-Patterson A.F.B. and will have the following general responsibilities:

- a. Acquisition and screening of documents.
- b. Checking for duplication.
- c. Security check on recipients.
- d. Delivery of materials to Library of Congress group.

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- e. Processing of materials received from Library of Congress group.
- f. Cataloging.
- g. Distribution of materials.

The second group will be located at the Library of Congress and will have responsibilities as follows:

- a. Cataloging of materials received from the Wright Field group.
- b. Determining the system of indexing.
- c. Abstracting.
- d. Recommendation of format for secondary publications.
- e. Preparing bibliographies and surveys of military research programs upon request.
- f. Preparing final copy for return to Wright Field group.

6. Colonel Macomber stated that while the above recommendations were not in final form, the final recommendations to the Special Committee on Technical Information, Research and Development Board, would be substantially the same. He also stated that it would be recommended that the new Document Center have no intelligence functions and that it should handle only domestically produced information or intelligence information which the intelligence agencies determined would be advisable to release to the Document Center.

7. Mr. Ball, the Chairman of the Special Committee on Technical Information, stated that he thought that his committee would recommend to the Chairman of the Research and Development Board that the above recommendations be accepted. He also stated that CIA had designated a member on his committee some time ago, but that this member had not been an active participant in the meetings.

8. As a result of the information obtained from Colonel Macomber and Mr. Ball, and the fact the translation section of GADG was discontinued in September 1949, it is felt that the proposed operation of the Central Armed Forces Document Center does not conflict with the work of CIA's Foreign Document Division.

9. However, since the Special Committee on Technical Information, R&DB, will make the final recommendation to the Chairman, Research and Development Board on the proposed operation of the Central Armed Forces Document Center, it is imperative that CIA maintain active membership on this committee. [redacted] has informed me that OSI will designate a new member for active participation.) Such membership will be a positive means of keeping abreast of the latest developments regarding the operation of the Document Center, as well as allowing CIA

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participation in the formulation of its operating policy.

Enclosures:

A.F. Reg. No. 20-10 - Organization - Central Air Documents Office  
18 August 1949

Office Memo: Chief, COAPS from AD/00, Subject, "CADO," 16 March 1950  
Memo: from [redacted] Subject, "Conferences on CADO,"  
30 March 1950

Office Memo: Chief, COAPS from AD/00, Subject, "CADO," 4 April 1950

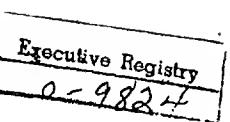
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Chief, Coordination, Operations and Policy Staff

4 April 1950

Assistant Director for Operations

Central Air Documents Office (CADO)

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1. [redacted] recommendation in paragraph 3 of his attached memorandum to the Assistant Director for Operations, dated 30 March 1950, is based on the assumption that RDB will accept the recommendations of Colonel Macomber and Mr. Ball.

2. It is requested that COAPS keep in touch with the CADO project until such time as it is known that RDB has approved the recommendation that CADO have no intelligence function and will only handle domestically produced information.

GEORGE G. CAREY

Encl: Copy of memo 30 Mar 50 from A. Chief, FDD to AD/OO, same subject

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Chief, Coordination, Operations and Policy Staff

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Assistant Director for Operations

Central Air Documents Office (CADO)

1. Attached memorandum from Acting Chief, Foreign Documents Division provides additional information on the status and proposed reorganization of the Central Air Documents Office.

2. In view of the interest of the Office of Scientific Intelligence in the exploitation of foreign scientific and technical literature, it is suggested that any CIA action on this subject be coordinated with the Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, who has also received a copy of this memorandum.

3. We believe that the functions performed by the Central Air Documents Office with reference to the private companies which operate on contracts to the armed services are outside the legitimate responsibilities of CIA, although this agency has a definite interest in any translation or exploitation of foreign scientific and technical literature. We feel that with proper coordination, the work of the Central Air Documents Office could supplement, rather than duplicate, the intelligence activities of the Foreign Documents Division in this field.

4. Concur in the recommendation of the Acting Chief, Foreign Documents Division that discussions be undertaken with representatives of the Research and Development Board, after coordination with OSI, in order to find out the results of the recent investigation and to determine what further action should be taken by CIA.

GEORGE G. CAREY

Encl. 1

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